

# DESERET EVENING NEWS

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SALT LAKE CITY, - APRIL 3, 1909.  
CONFERENCE NOTICE.

The Seventy-ninth annual general  
Conference of the Church of Jesus  
Christ of Latter-day Saints will be  
held at the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City,  
on Sunday, April 4, 1909, at 10  
o'clock a. m. A full attendance of the  
officers and members is hereby re-  
quested.

A general Priesthood meeting will be  
held in the Tabernacle on Monday,  
April 5, beginning at 6 o'clock p. m.

JOSEPH F. SMITH,  
JOHN R. WINDLER,  
ANTHONY H. LUND,  
First Presidency.

DESERET SUNDAY SCHOOL UNION

The semi-annual conference of the  
Deseret Sunday School union will  
convene at the Tabernacle, Sunday eve-  
ning, April 4, 1909, at 7 o'clock. All in-  
vited.

A special meeting of the stake super-  
intendents will be held at room 301 L.  
D. S. college building, Monday, April 5,  
at 8:15 a. m.

JOSEPH F. SMITH,  
GEORGE REYNOLDS,  
DAVID O' M'KAY,  
General Superintendent.

THE CONFERENCE.

Tomorrow, Sunday, the seventy-  
ninth annual Conference of the Church  
of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints  
will convene in the Tabernacle. As is  
always the case at Conference times,  
visitors, numbering thousands, will  
come from all parts of the State, and  
from other States and Territories, to  
attend the meetings and receive coun-  
sel and instructions; to visit friends,  
or to transact business, and we bid  
them all a cordial welcome, earnestly  
hoping that their brief stay in the City  
may be pleasant and profitable to them,  
in every respect.

It is generally said of each Con-  
ference that it is the best ever held. This  
will not be an exception. There is no  
reason why it should. The Latter-day  
Saints, as a rule, are advancing in  
knowledge, intelligence, faith, and good  
works. The leaders of the Church are  
united in their labors for the fur-  
therance of the work of God in the  
earth, and they are guided by inspi-  
ration from on high. The promises of  
the divine presence whenever the peo-  
ple of the Lord assemble in His name  
is as valid today as ever. So there is  
no reason why the Conference should  
not be one of spiritual benefit to all  
who come with hearts prepared to re-  
ceive divine blessings.

The first Church Conference was held  
on the 9th day of June, 1839. At that  
time there were about thirty members  
present, besides inquirers. It was an  
occasion of the outpouring of the di-  
vine Spirit. Some prophesied, others  
had their minds opened to heavenly  
visions, and their hearts were filled  
with love, and joy unspeakable.

What a wonderful work has been ac-  
complished since that first confer-  
ence, seventy-nine years ago! What a mar-  
velous chapter of Church history is  
contained in the brief period of time  
between that date and this! The Church  
has passed through experiences in  
which any organization not sustained  
by the power of the Almighty, would  
have been destroyed. It has suffered  
from the accusations of false brethren  
and apostates; from the falsehoods  
spread broadcast by the unscrupulous  
enemies of all righteousness; from the  
machinations of vile politicians and  
office hunters; from the brutality of  
greedy mobs, coveting the prop-  
erty of the Latter-day Saints have  
been imprisoned, driven from place to  
place, and slain for the testimony of  
Jesus; but notwithstanding all, they  
have been sustained by Him who laid  
the foundation of the work, and in His  
power they have gone forth to all parts  
of the world, and the Church has grown  
numerically, as well as spiritually,  
while the gospel message has traveled  
a heaven penetrating the religious sys-  
tems of today and changing the con-  
ceptions of mankind concerning God,  
and man and his future destiny. It is  
one of the marvels of this world, that  
the very men who denounce the gospel as  
heresy are gradually accepting as truth  
the doctrines it proclaims.

The Latter-day Saints who meet in  
this Conference, and those who are not  
in a position to do so except in spirit,  
have every reason to feel encouraged.  
Our books and tracts are being dis-  
tributed by the thousands, and even  
millions, in the various mission fields.  
More meetings are being held than  
ever, and many honest souls accept the  
gospel. The Church is a power for good  
in the world. It is a living witness,  
proclaiming the coming of that king-  
dom in which truth, love and righteous-  
ness are the foundation stones of gov-  
ernment and human conduct. And its  
message is being heard all around the  
world. There is every reason for re-  
joicing at the present time, and for the  
determination to go on with the work  
that means the redemption of mankind  
from sin and all its consequences. And  
may the Saints be filled with power  
from on high to ever increasing mea-  
sure, to fulfil their great and important  
mission.

ONCE MORE.  
The Tribune is still "whining" be-  
cause the "News" exposed the hypocri-  
cy of the so-called American city coun-  
cils liquor bill. But, since the paper  
itself admitted, under the "castigation"  
it received, that it is intended as a ruse  
by which to fool the friends of temper-  
ance to vote a ticket acceptable to the  
liquor interests, our "loony" contem-  
porary should not complain.

It will be observed that we have taken  
the liberty of borrowing the terms  
"whining," "castigation," and "loony"  
from the Tribune. Its own favorite  
rapping expressions ought to have the  
effect upon it that music is said to have  
upon a savage.

The Tribune, in its whining reply,  
says "The Deseret News objects to the  
ordinance passed by the American city  
council simply because it is an Ameri-  
can party ordinance; and its envenom-  
ed rage against it is intensified be-  
cause it is seen to be a good and sound  
ordinance." To all of which we prompt-  
ly reply: "Not guilty!"

The "News" does not object to any  
ordinance because of its being an  
"American" party ordinance, but in  
common with all who have the welfare  
of this City at heart, we object to any  
measure that is not intended for the  
benefit of the people—all the people—  
but only for an ambitious clique that  
has exerted itself to the utmost to bring  
disgrace upon Utah by disseminating  
falsehood throughout the land, and that  
has proved itself unworthy of public  
confidence. We object to this particu-  
lar ordinance also because we believe  
the effect of it, under an unscrupulous  
city administration, will be to increase  
the illegal traffic generally connected  
with the bad saloon.

As for the old, worn out tale that the  
so-called American party leaders are in  
politics only because they object to  
Church influence, it is only necessary  
to say that everybody knows better.  
It is no secret that they are in politics  
for what there is in it for them. Their  
patriotism is not of the altruistic  
brand. The Church does not claim the  
right to interfere in politics, and does  
not interfere. But the American party  
leaders claim the right to disfranchise,  
virtually, American citizens because  
they may hold an ecclesiastical position,  
while they are perfectly willing to ac-  
cept the influence of the saloonkeeper  
and red-light district in their politics.  
This is the real point in dispute, no  
matter how much verbosity is employed  
to conceal the actual fact.

## ADMIRAL EVANS.

The warm feeling of patriotic pride  
which prompted so many of the citizens  
of the State of Utah to attend the re-  
ception tendered the Atlantic Fleet at  
San Francisco a year ago, when, under  
the command of "Fighting Bob," it  
had finished the most perilous portion  
of its historic world-encircling cruise,  
finds expression in the welcome which  
the people of the State, and City, ex-  
tend to Admiral Robley Dunglass  
Evans today during his visit here. The  
American people honor the heroes who  
through peace and war have defended  
the country, but in addition to this the  
people of Utah take pride in Admiral  
Evans as a representative of the State  
in the Navy. Admiral Evans resided in  
Utah in his boyhood and was appointed  
to the Naval College by Utah's delegate  
to Congress, Captain Hooper. The  
memory of the honor conferred upon  
the High School Cadet corps at San  
Francisco last year, when they were  
appointed his escort, has also endeared  
him to the people of Utah. May Ad-  
miral Evans feel thrice welcome to the  
City and State. A feeling of warmth  
and good cheer toward him pervades  
every heart.

Every school-boy today is acquainted  
with the stirring incidents in his life  
from the time he was attacked by In-  
dians when he was journeying to Utah  
until the time that he gave over the  
command of the greatest fleet of war  
vessels which ever circled the earth.  
His distinguished record during the  
Civil War, the part he played in the  
Spanish War, and every service done  
for his country have been such as to  
inspire the boys of the nation with a  
determination to also serve their coun-  
try well. The United States need more  
men like "Fighting Bob" Evans to  
serve her. Utah's representatives in  
Congress could please her citizens in  
no better way than in helping to have  
the rank of Vice-Admiral created for  
Rear Admiral Evans, as suggested by  
the U. S. Navy League.

Aside from these considerations which  
Utah people have for hearing him, Ad-  
miral Evans is bearing a message to  
the Nation, which should prompt every  
one who can to hear him tonight when  
he speaks in the large Tabernacle. As  
citizens of a state having nothing to  
do with the sea, the people of Utah  
need to hear first hand, from the most  
competent authority, of the needs of  
the country in regard to Naval de-  
fense.

May the stay of the Admiral in the  
City be such as to assure him that the  
people of the State have great regard  
for his manhood and service, and when  
he leaves may he take away additional  
pleasant memories of Utah and her  
people.

## AGE OF THE EARTH.

The question of the age of the earth  
is one that scientists have endeavored  
to solve by different calculations, but  
the only point agreed upon by them  
so far is, that a very long period of  
time must be allowed for the develop-  
ment of our planet.

If it is supposed that the earth first  
commenced its independent career, as  
a mass of gas separated from the sun,  
it must further be supposed that it  
would gradually lose its high tempera-  
ture and a solid crust would form on  
its surface. The same would follow, if as  
such scientists as Lockyer and Moulton  
believe, the earth was at first formed  
by the accumulation of incandescent when  
arrested in their motion. A crust would  
form over the molten mass. Lord Kel-  
vin calculates that it would only take a  
hundred years before the temperature  
of the earth would sink from 1,000 to  
100 degrees, but, according to Jolyet,  
at least a hundred million years must  
have elapsed since the ocean was origi-  
nated. This estimate is based on the  
amount of salt supposed to be con-  
tained in the ocean and the amount  
supplied by the rivers each year. The  
result of the calculation is that it

would take the rivers a hundred mil-  
lion years to furnish the salt now stored  
up in the oceans.  
Calculations founded on the stratified  
and sedimentary layers yield still high-  
er figures. Sir Archibald Geikie esti-  
mates the total thickness of these strata  
at about twenty miles, and that  
every meter in the strata would re-  
quire from 2,000 to 20,000 years for its  
formation. The total age of the earth  
would therefore be from ninety to six  
hundred million years. That is not  
very definite.

According to another calculation the  
earth's radius has contracted 0.3 per  
cent, as a result of the cooling pro-  
cess. This estimate is based on the ex-  
istence of the mountain chains. It  
is supposed that it has taken at least  
two billion years for the earth to shrink  
from its original to its present size.

Thus we see that scientists calculate  
the earth's age at all the way from a  
hundred million to two thousand million  
years.  
It is a notable fact that the sacred  
historian, in Genesis, does not attempt  
to give the age of the earth, nor the  
time necessary for the work of crea-  
tion. He makes clear that the world  
was called into being by God—that it  
is not the result of chance or accident;  
that the earth, as far as we are con-  
cerned, is the center of interest, and  
that the production of higher organisms  
continually toward higher organisms,  
each step being complete in itself, but  
serving God's purposes toward a high-  
er development. He makes clear that  
the divine aim is the introduction of  
man as the crowning work of the crea-  
tion. Not until His plan has been placed  
in His own image, in the garden, does  
He "rest." These and similar truths,  
expressed in the most sublime language  
ever penned by man, the author of  
Genesis records, leaving to independent  
research the questions relating to the  
methods by which the creation was ac-  
complished and the time required.

On one point complete harmony ex-  
ists between the inspired record and  
the man of science who is capable of  
sound reasoning. And that is that the  
world is built according to a plan  
that is discernible everywhere. Every  
motion is timed for the achievement of  
some definite result. Law is in evi-  
dence everywhere, in the motion of the  
stars and the nebulae; in the blossom-  
ing of the flowers in the spring; in the  
song of the birds, the roll of the wave,  
or the whispering of the wind. The  
Bible historian speaks of creation and  
the scientist of evolution. But behind  
both stands the same divine Intelli-  
gence, directing, ordering, governing.  
Independent of evolution there was,  
and is, an Intelligence that drew the  
plan.

A tax on stockings? Knit!

Wilbur Wright has stood before a  
king.

The embezzler always makes a mis-  
take.

Hoboes and boys never object to sun  
baths.

If a man thinks he is thinking, he's  
thinking.

Scratch a gilded youth and you will  
soon come to brass.

No more welcome visitors than the  
Conference visitors.

The thief acts wisely in dropping the  
substance for the "shadow."

Admiral Evans found the High  
School cadets fine "rah material."

The debate on the tariff bill looks a  
good deal like "just fooling."

It's a pity the government cannot  
reassess the Standard Oil company.

Crazy Snake has not been captured.  
Crazy people are very wily at times.

The appetite of a politician for  
"pie" is more voracious than that of  
a boy.

While not of royal blood, Count  
Zeppelin has the airship to the Ger-  
man throne.

As a giver out of interviews E. H.  
Harriman is becoming a formidable  
rival to James J. Hill.

Photographs, monologues, elo-  
quentists, bobs and book agents all speak  
for themselves.

The mother of a family of boys knows  
that it is never too late to mend no  
matter how late it is.

The weather bureau can earn golden  
opinions if it will furnish fine weather  
for the next few days.

At Gibraltar Colonel Roosevelt abso-  
lutely refused to be photographed. How  
foreign travel changes a man.

It is as hard to credit an enemy  
with a good action prompted by  
honest motives, as it is for a camel  
to go through the eye of a needle.

City Engineer Kelsey is a fine en-  
gineer. He has succeeded in engineer-  
ing an appropriation through the City  
Council for the purchase of an auto-  
mobile for himself.

Governor Draper thinks the produc-  
tion of "Salome" in Boston by the  
Manhattan Opera company would be  
"inadvisable." What Salome has need-  
ed right along has been more drap-  
ery.

"The Hymn of the Pioneer," an origi-  
nal poem by Kate Thomas, is num-  
bered among the Conference offerings.  
It consists of five stanzas neatly print-  
ed, and is on sale at the Deseret News  
Book Store today.

That President Taft should for a mo-  
ment consider the revival of stamp  
taxes shows how really serious the de-  
ficit is. The cause is not far to seek;  
it is extravagance. The extravagance  
must be reduced or the taxes increased.  
If the deficit is not to continue to grow,  
The people can take their choice.

# AN IMPORTANT DATE—BY JOHN SOUTH

[The 6th day of April is an epoch-  
making date in history, the Church of  
Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints hav-  
ing been organized on that date, by  
divine commandment. In the following  
communication a friend of the "News"  
gives his reasons why he believes that  
the birthday of our Savior, and the  
Resurrection from the tomb also oc-  
curred on a date corresponding to our  
6th of April.—594.]

Every Bible student, fully under-  
stands the circumstances that caused  
Jacob to go down into Egypt with his  
family. At this time they were very  
few. In time they multiplied to a good-  
ly number and became a menace to the  
monarch who ruled over them.  
At their exodus from Egypt, their  
numbers were sufficient to give them a  
national character and from this on,  
their history assumes a national im-  
portance. So from this event, we date  
the beginning of their history, and the  
beginning of their existence as a nation.

Exodus twelfth chapter, 1 and 2: "And  
the Lord spake unto Moses and Aaron  
saying, 'After the month of March, the  
month shall be the first month of the  
year to you.' This establishes beyond  
doubt, from what day their years were  
to be counted. Mr. Edward Robinson,  
in his Dictionary of the Bible, under  
the heading of the Passover, says:  
'They set off on the fifteenth day of the  
first month, the day after the passover.  
About the middle of April, under the  
name of 'Months,' which was derived  
from the month of March, God ordain-  
ed that the holy year, that is the calen-  
dar of religious feasts and cere-  
monies, should begin at Nisan, the  
seventh month of the civil year, the  
civil year being left unchanged, which  
the Hebrews continued to begin at the  
month Tishri, September.'

Jews being a handful of people in the  
midst of others surrounding them,  
compelled with such customs and man-  
ners of dividing times and seasons, as  
were used by the people that ruled over  
them; first, of the Chaldeans, after-  
wards, of the Persians, and lastly of the  
Greeks. It should, however, be re-  
marked, that other interpreters,  
with more probability, reckon the be-  
ginning of Nisan and the sacred year  
from the new moon of April, and not  
March. I shall endeavor to prove  
from other works, that that can be ques-  
tioned, whose value as authority is be-  
yond dispute, or should be, with Latter-  
day Saints, that April is the month in  
which Jesus was born, and not Decem-  
ber. Having stated April as the month  
when Jesus was born, let us find if  
possible the day in which this impor-  
tant event occurred; let us select the  
6th day and from other circumstances  
establish it as a fact beyond refutation.

Luke second chap. 21st verse: "And  
when eight days were accomplished for  
the circumcision of the child, His name  
was called Jesus which was so named of  
the angel before He was conceived in  
the womb." In the 21st verse, referring to  
a person named Simon, it says: "And  
he came by the Spirit into the temple,  
and when the parents brought in the  
child Jesus, to do for Him after the  
custom of the law, then took He Him up  
in His arms and blessed God, and said:  
Lord, now lettest thou Thy servant de-  
part in peace, according to Thy word.  
For mine eyes have seen Thy salva-  
tion."

What event was being celebrated? It  
was the feast of the passover. There  
was a prophesy by the name of Anna  
present. And she, coming in that in-  
stant, gave thanks likewise unto the  
Lord, and spake of Him (Jesus) to all  
them that looked for redemption in Je-  
rusalem. And when they (the parents)  
had performed all things according to  
the law of the Lord, they returned into  
Galilee, to their own city, Nazareth.  
What were the things they had per-  
formed? First, the circumcision of the  
child; second, the mother's free will of-  
fering; third, in common with Israel,  
the celebration of the passover. Jesus  
was born on the 6th, eight days after  
the circumcision took place, making it  
the 14th day of April, the time when  
the destroying angel passed over Egypt.  
Jesus was led by the Spirit into the  
Temple. Anna came in at that instant  
and spake to an already assembled peo-  
ple. In Luke, second chapter, we read:  
'Now His parents went to Jerusalem  
after the custom of the feast.' Jeho-  
nah, when He brought the people out from  
bondage, said, it (that is, the passover)  
should be the beginning of months and  
the first month of their year. This was  
very near the time of His (Jesus)  
birth, a striking coincidence, if it  
was so, thirty, in the fourth month,  
their slavery of toll, that He should  
appear as their deliverer and redeemer.  
Was it an accident, or was the first  
passover a fitting emblem of the great-  
est deliverance they might, if they  
would, be delivered from sin and all  
their transgressions?

The above is strong presumptive evi-  
dence of the time of the birth of the  
Savior. But there are other authorities  
on this subject. Sec. 21 of the Doctrine  
and Covenants says: "Behold, there  
shall be a record kept among you, and  
it shall be called a Seal, a Translator,  
a Prophet, an Apostle of Jesus Christ,  
an Elder of the Church through the will  
of God, the Father, and the grace of  
your Lord Jesus Christ. Being inspired  
of the Holy Ghost to lay the foundation  
thereof, and to build it up unto the  
most holy faith, which Church was  
organized and established in the year  
of our Lord eighteen hundred and  
thirty, in the fourth month, and on the  
sixth day of the month, which is called  
April." This states that it was the 6th  
of April, 1830 A. D., thus giving the  
month and day of birth. Sec. 20, Doctrines and Covenants: "The  
rise of the Church of Christ in these  
last days, being one thousand eight  
hundred and thirty years since the  
coming of our Lord and Savior Jesus  
Christ in the flesh, it being regularly  
organized and established agreeable to  
the laws of our country, by the will  
and commandments of God, in the  
fourth month, and on the sixth day of  
month which is called April." In the  
twenty-first section we are informed  
that Joseph Smith, being inspired by  
the Holy Ghost, laid the foundations of  
the Church. In the twentieth section  
we are told the rise of the Church was  
1830 years since the coming of Jesus  
Christ in the flesh. This seems to in-  
dicate the day on which He was born.

In Third Nephi, chap. 5: 1-7, we read:  
"And now it came to pass that, ac-  
cording to our record, and we know  
our record to be true, for behold it was  
a just man who did keep our record;  
for he truly did many miracles in the  
name of Jesus; and there was not any  
man who could do a miracle in the  
name of Jesus, save he were cleansed  
every whit from iniquity. And now  
it came to pass, if there was no mis-  
take made by this man in the reckoning  
of our time, the thirty and third year  
had passed away. And the people began  
to look with great earnestness for the  
sign which had been given by the prophet  
Samuel, the Lamanite; yea, for the time  
that there should be darkness for the  
space of three days over the face of  
the land. And there began to be great

doubtings and disputations among the  
people, notwithstanding so many signs  
had been given. And it came in the  
thirty and fourth year. In the first  
month in the fourth day of the month,  
there arose a great storm, such an one  
as never had been known in all the  
land; and there was a terrible thunder,  
insomuch that it did shake the whole  
earth as if it was about to divide asun-  
der; and there were exceeding sharp  
lightnings, such as never had been  
known in the land."

Possibly to the cursory reader there  
will be no facts connected with the  
subject under consideration, but let us  
ask you to forget for a short time the  
traditional story, that the birth of  
Jesus was on Dec. 25. Leave out the  
three intervening months, January,  
February and March, and make April  
the first month of the new year, then  
you have this book bearing record with  
the Bible or Biblical scholars, that  
Jesus was crucified in the thirty-third  
year of His life. We have previously  
stated, that the exodus from Egypt  
was on the 14th of April and God de-  
clared that the sacred year was to be-  
gin in this month (that is, the passover).  
I was the fourth day of the first month  
of the thirty-fourth year of the Chris-  
tian era.

Now, let us offer another thought. If  
Jesus was crucified on the fourth day  
of the first month, He then lay in His  
tomb on the fourth, fifth and sixth days  
of this month and arose triumphant  
from His grave, the victor over death,  
hell and the grave, on the same day  
that he was born. What a celebration  
it was, indeed! A risen Redeemer of a  
fallen world! For this short event oc-  
curred in the first month of the thirty-  
fourth year, "since His coming in the  
flesh."

This, then, stands out pre-eminent-  
ly a witness for God. A Deliverer was  
sent to lead Israel out of bondage.  
Jesus was born near the time of this  
same event with the purpose in view  
to again deliver the people from a ty-  
rant more relentless than Pharaoh of  
Egypt, and when the message of peace  
had been lost to mankind for ages, on  
a bright morning in the year 1830 the  
silence of the heavens was broken, the  
Father and the Son appeared in a vision  
and eventually on the 6th of April, 1830,  
since His coming in the flesh, He again  
established His Church on the earth on  
the day of the anniversary of His birth,  
no more to be taken from the earth.  
What more fitting day than this? We  
have the Bible, the Doctrine and Cove-  
nants, and the Book of Mormon, all  
declaring the same truth, each in har-  
mony with the other.

There may be some persons who have  
not read carefully the Book of Mormon  
and may not understand how this is  
determined; if they will read the first  
chapter of the Third Nephi, they will  
find these words written: "And it  
came to pass in the commencement of  
the ninety and second year (of the reign  
of Judges), behold the prophecies of the  
prophets began to be fulfilled more ful-  
ly. . . . And it came to pass that when  
Nephi, the son of Nephi, saw this  
wickedness of his people, his heart was  
exceeding sorrowful. . . . And it came  
to pass that he cried mightily unto the  
Lord all the day; and behold the voice  
of the Lord came to him, saying: Lift  
up your head, and be of good cheer,  
for behold, the time is at hand, and  
on this night shall the sign be given  
and tomorrow come I into the world, to  
show unto the world that I will fulfill  
all that I have caused to be spoken by  
the mouth of my holy prophets. Al-  
though the wise men of the east  
watched for and were guided by the  
star of Bethlehem, there were some  
men in the west who watched for the  
sign of His birth and it was given.  
And they therefore were acquainted  
about the time when He should come  
into the world. . . . And six hundred and  
ninety years had passed away, since Lehi  
left Jerusalem. And nine years had passed  
away, from the time when the sign was  
given, which was spoken of by the

prophets, that Christ should come into  
the world."

They were able to determine with  
accuracy on this continent the events  
that were to take place, in regard to  
such an important personage, and all  
that was connected therewith; because  
they were familiar with the prophecies  
connected with His life and ministry;  
they were guided by the sacred calen-  
dar.

The recorder in the days of the Third  
Nephi was able to make a correct reckon-  
ing, and state the first month of the thirty-fourth  
year of the Christian era, and on the  
fourth day of the month, but had it  
been otherwise, he would not have done  
so and made his record agree with the  
books quoted.

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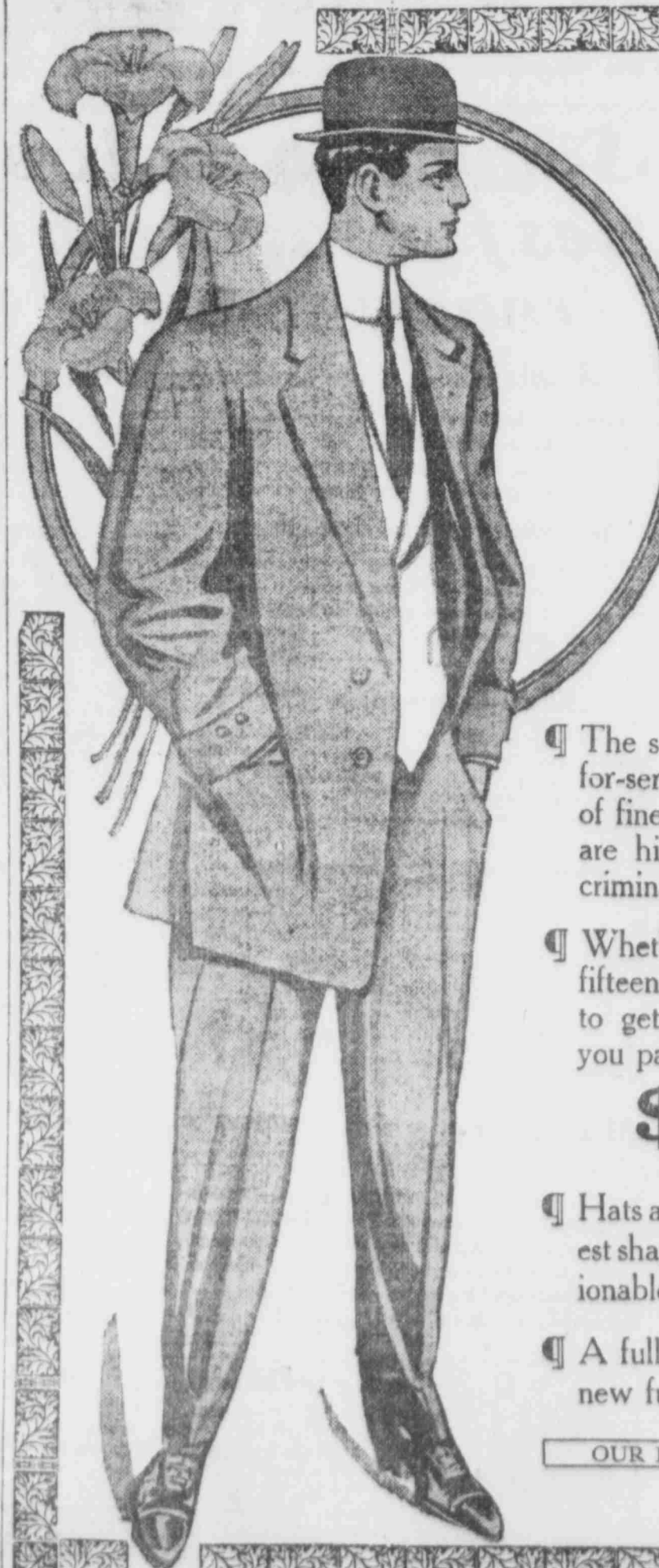
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